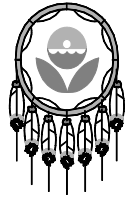


# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. XV No. IV  
April 1, 2006

## Work Shops and Conferences

**April 2-7, 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Northwest Indian Youth Council, Seattle, WA.** 206/325-3942 or [www.iwasil.org](http://www.iwasil.org)

**April 5-6, Regional RTOC meeting, Seattle, WA.** See second item below\*\*

**April 10-13, Mitigation for Tribal Officials, Emmitsburg, MD.** Info: [Dawn.warehime@dgs.gov](mailto:Dawn.warehime@dgs.gov)

**April 11-13, National Tribal Air Forum, Seattle, WA.,** Darrel Harmon: [harmon.darrel@epa.gov](mailto:harmon.darrel@epa.gov)

For the agenda: <http://www4.nau.edu/itep>

**May 1-4, 13<sup>th</sup> National Tribal Environmental council Conference, Temecula, CA.** For more information:

<http://www.ntec.org> or Contact David Conrad at: [dconrad@ntec.org](mailto:dconrad@ntec.org)

**May 2-3, Freshwater Spill Conference, Portland, Oregon.** See below\*\*\*\*

**May 9-11, Energy Efficiency in Tribal Community, Denver, CO.** National conference on energy efficiency and weatherization: More: <http://www.certreearth.com/events.php>

**August 21-25, Tribal Leaders Summit, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation,**

Pendleton, OR. For additional information: <http://www.umatilla.nsn.us/2006kEPAsummit.html>

**September, 24-29, Tribal Science Conference, Ocean Shores, WA.** <http://www.quinaultbeachresort.com>

**November 2-5, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual AISES Conference, Detroit, MI.** [www.aiuses.org](http://www.aiuses.org)

**Region 10 Tribal  
Newsletter is published  
Monthly at no charge**

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### **Earth Day**

In a response commensurate with many environmental problems, an estimated 20 million Americans gathered

together on April 22, 1970, which this year marks the 36<sup>th</sup> year, to participate in a well publicized environmental demonstration known as "Earth Day".

**Earth Day, April 22,** is a day to show how much we care about protecting public health and the environment and do something for those that will follow us. For more:

<http://www.epa.gov/earthday>

### **RTOC\*\***

The next quarterly Regional Tribal Operations Committee

(RTOC) will be held in Seattle on April 5 and 6. All Tribes and consortia are welcome to attend. To register (free), get directions, and obtain an agenda, please contact Mary Bell Austin at: [austin.marybell@epa.gov](mailto:austin.marybell@epa.gov) or at 206/553-7263. Additional information on the RTOC can be found online at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/tribal.NSFprogram/rtoc>

### **Fresh Water Spills\*\*\*\***

The EPA is pleased to host the sixth biennial Freshwater

Spills Symposium (FSS) in Portland, Oregon, May 2-4, 2006. For the first time, short courses will also be offered on Monday, May 1, 2006.

The FSS offers an opportunity for local, state, federal, tribes, industry responders, natural resource trustees, managers, facility response planners, and other stakeholders to engage in an exchange targeted at the unique problems presented by freshwater oil spills.

Through the efforts of excellent speakers and presenter, the Freshwater Spill Symposium aims to further our understanding of the challenges posed by oil spills in freshwater environments, and to expand the resources and information available. The FSS 2006 Design Team is again looking forward to the participants imparting their experiences and knowledge of planning for, preventing, and responding to freshwater oil spills.

FSS 2006 will be held at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, Portland-Lloyd Center. Symposium attendance is FREE, but advance registration is required at: <http://www.freshwaterspills.net/fss06/register/html>

### **NETI Training**

National Enforcement Training Institute (NETI) courses are for federal, state, local and tribal environmental personnel, including attorneys, inspectors, technical staff and investigators. All courses are free. Distances learning

products, such as CD-ROMs or videotapes are mailed to students at no cost; classroom courses are free-the student only pays travel costs. Courses fill up early, so check their web site for specific information <http://www.netionline.com>. Click on the NETI Course Catalog and Schedule button, and find the courses which are of interest. To request a printed Catalog, call 202/564-2430. For general information about NETI, contact Zena Aldridge at [Aldridge.zeno@epa.gov](mailto:Aldridge.zeno@epa.gov) or 740/773-4039.

### **Mold Course**

EPA announces the availability of its free *Mold Web Course* at:

<http://www.epa.gov/mold>

The course features information on mold prevention and remediation. Each chapter and lesson can be accessed independently, as time permits, without viewing the entire course. The target audience is environmental and public health professionals, but anyone can learn from it. Since mold is an asthma trigger, these lessons may be especially important to those who deal with asthma.

The course is based on the EPA's voluntary guidance document *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings* and includes an "Image Library" of mold and moisture photos that may be used for presentations and educational purposes without contacting EPA.

This course is free and available to all. EPA will not

provide a certificate, certification, or any other credential for viewing the course; it is for informational purposes only. EPA will not track your test results or provide the information to any other party. All participation in the course is completely anonymous.

### **EPA Information Web site**

The EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) recently announced that new digital services are available through its Web site:

<http://nepis.epa.gov>.

More than 13,000 environmental publications are maintained in the center's online archive. Users may now: ↪ search full text of documents online and locate specific and related publications, ↪ use a new "bookshelf" feature to recall saved links to online documents for future visits, and ↪ create PDFs of scanned documents for downloading and printing.

Environmental publications can also be ordered from NSCEP in hard copy, DVD, CD-ROM, and video at: [www.epa.gov/ncepi/hom/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ncepi/hom/index.htm). or by calling 800/490-9198.

### **Tribal UST**

The EPA and tribal representatives nationwide are working to develop and implement a national **Underground Storage Tank (UST) Compliance** strategy by August 8, 2006, per the energy Policy Act of 2005. A progress

report is due to Congress one year after issuing the strategy (August 8, 2007).

The Energy Policy Act requires that the strategy give priority to petroleum leaks and spills that present the greatest threat to human health or the environment and to the implementation and enforcement of requirements concerning USTs located on tribal lands. Approximately 7,800 registered USTs exist in Indian Country, of which approximately 2,500 are actively used. A national workgroup comprised of representatives from more than 50 tribes nationwide and EPA headquarters and regional staff has been meeting via conference calls since November 2005 to work on strategy.

Although 500+ tribes nationwide have been contacted by the EPA, only about 30 tribes are actively participating. Because of the important environmental and health implications, more tribal input is needed. Any tribal member interested in participating is encouraged to contact tribal team co-chairs Arlen Luther, Navajo Nation, 928/871-7994; [arleneluther@navajo.org](mailto:arleneluther@navajo.org), Gwen Carter, Nez Perce Tribe, 208/843-7368; [gwenc@nezperce.org](mailto:gwenc@nezperce.org) or Kelly Hurt, Chickasaw Nation, 580/272-2047; [Kelly.hurt@chickasaw.net](mailto:Kelly.hurt@chickasaw.net).

Efforts will continue through early August 2006 at which time the final strategy is due per the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

### **Bottled Water???**

The global consumption of bottled water reached 154 billion liters in 2004, up 57% from 98 billion liters consumed in 1999. Although in the industrial world bottled water is often no healthier than tap water, in fact U. S. water quality standards set by the EPA for tap water, are more stringent than the Food and Drug Administration's standards for bottled water.

Bottled water is increasing – producing unnecessary garbage and consuming vast quantities of energy. Fossil fuels are used in packaging of water. Transporting bottled water long distances involves burning massive quantities of fossil fuels. Nearly a quarter of all bottled water crosses national borders to reach consumers, transported by boat, train and truck. The most commonly used plastic for making water bottles is polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is derived from crude oil. Making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel some 100,000 U. S. cars for a year. Worldwide, some 2.7 million tons of plastic are used to bottle water each year. According to the container Recycling Institute, 86% of plastic water bottles used in the U. S. become garbage or litter. Incinerating used bottles produces toxic byproducts, such as chlorine gas and ash containing heavy metals.

The United Nations Goal for environmental sustainability calls for halving the portion of people lacking sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015. Meeting this goal would require doubling the \$15 billion a year that the world currently spends on water supply and sanitation. While this amount may seem large, it pales in comparison to the estimated \$100 billion spent each year on bottled water. At as much as \$2.50 per liter (\$10.00 per gallon), bottled water currently costs four times more than gasoline. (2006 Earth Policy Institute)

### ***Living Downstream (1998)***

In Sandra Steingraber's book *Living Downstream* offers a literal and figurative portrayal of what it means to live downstream. Following are some interesting findings and conclusions that are presented:

- 🍏-Cancer rates have sky-rocked by 49.3 percent from 1950 to 1991, and even with the removal of lung cancer, which is usually a smoker's disease, cancer rates still went up by 35 percent.
- 🍏-While 25 percent of Americans in 1950 could expect to contract cancer during their lifetimes, the rate was 40 percent in the year 2000.
- 🍏-Workers in polyvinyl chloride factories that produce children's toys, credit cards, lawn furniture and food packaging materials have incidences of liver cancer 3,000 times higher than the general population.
- 🍏-We still make, use, sell or import 200 chemicals that are listed by

EPA as carcinogens likely to cause cancer.

Apple- DDT and PCBs create cumulative toxic burdens in their fish hosts such that fish in 40 percent of the rivers in America are inedible. Apple- Due to such pervasive environmental pollution, a study in the early 1990s revealed that the breast tissue of 25 percent of the nursing mothers carried a toxic burden so high that their milk did not pass the U. S. Food and Drug Administration minimums for chemicals such as DDT and PCBs.

In presenting this token of information I am not endorsing buying *Living Downstream*, but felt than all of us in the environmental field would find it interesting if not enlightening. Don Creek

#### NEPA(repeat)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) courses provide information and skills necessary to prepare and review environmental assessments and environmental impact statements as mandated by NEPA and EPA's review and comment mandate under Section 309 of the clean Air Act. The courses are open to newcomers to the NEPA program, associate NEPA reviewers, environmental reviewers from other federal agencies and as a refresher course for more experienced staff. If you have any questions, call Arthur Totten 202/564-7164 or [toten.arthur@epa.gov](mailto:toten.arthur@epa.gov).

#### Water Act Poster

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Safe Drinking Water Act wall chart is now available from HDR. The Poster-sized chart provides an easy-to-use reference for all drinking water regulations including a detailed listing of contaminants and maximum contaminant levels, health effects and monitoring requirements. Emphasis this year is on simultaneous compliance with multiple regulations, in particular two new rules established by the EPA in January.

The rules are the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule and the Long Term 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection byproducts Rule and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Both regulations add monitoring requirements and have expedited implementation schedules. Chart available: <http://www.hdrinc.com/15/43/5/default.aspx>

#### CARE (additional info)

EPA announced that funds are available to support community-based partnerships to reduce toxic risks in local communities. EPA will award about \$2.7 million in cooperative agreements in two levels through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. Level I cooperative agreements will help establish community-based partnerships and set priorities for reducing toxic risks in a community. EPA anticipates awarding eight to ten

cooperative agreements under Level I, ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000. Level II cooperative agreements are for communities that already have a broad-based collaborative partnership, have identified risk reduction priorities and are ready to implement risk reduction strategies. EPA expects to award six to eight cooperative agreements, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000. A range of community groups may apply for funding, including county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities. The CARE program helps to build broad-based local partnerships for reducing risks from toxic pollutants that come from numerous sources. For additional information about CARE, projects awarded in 2005, or how to apply for the cooperative agreements, visit EPA's Web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/care>. or Roxanne smith 202/564-4355. [smith.roxanne@epa.gov](mailto:smith.roxanne@epa.gov)

#### Watershed Funding

Plan2Fund<sup>TM</sup> is a Watershed Planning Tool developed by the Environmental finance center at Boise State University that helps organizations determine their funding needs to meet the goals and objectives of their Watershed Program Plan. This tool walks users through estimating the cost of their Watershed Program Plan's Goals and Objective, assessing any local matches, and determining funding needs to

meet Goals and Objectives. To download this tool, go to: <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc> or call 866/627-9847 to receive a free copy by mail.

### **NIMS**

The guidelines for incorporating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) into your Emergency Operations Plans (different from mitigation plans) and any Standardized Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been published on the NIMS website. These guidelines can be found on the NIMS Web site: <http://www.fema.gov/nims>.

There are two separate documents for states/territories and local/tribal. Both are 33 pages. Also newly available is a 2-page guidance document for Incident Command System (ICS) instructors, and this can also be found on the Web site.

### **Shredded Tires**

Worn automobile tires have been accumulating at an alarming rate. A small percentage of these tires are recycled into other rubber-based uses; shredded or chipped tires are being used for a wide variety of products including playground covers and door mats. But an estimated 250 million tires are discarded annually in the U. S. This equals about one tire per person per year.

There are several drawbacks to discarding used tires into landfills: landfills require a large amount of space, tires tend to float or rise in a landfill and

come to the surface and the void space provides potential sites for rodents and mosquitoes. In response, a variety of innovative research projects have attempted to find good ways to use them. Tire chips as a substitute for stone aggregate in septic system drainfields is one of these possibilities.

Tires can be cut into small pieces by various techniques, and the physical characteristics of the tire chips, such as size, wire protrusion and fines can be controlled. Tire shreds are stable in composition, meaning they do not break down into other elements and other elements do not leach from them when exposed to the sun and water over time. There seems to be no difference in performance between new and used tire chips.

### **Bicycles**

Two interactive CDs are available that will take you through bicycle and pedestrian safety situations encountered every day across America. At least seven states are teaching safety skills to elementary school children using the award-winning pedestrian safety CD. Both CDs can be ordered for free at [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped/bike/ped\\_bide\\_order.htm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped/bike/ped_bide_order.htm).

### **Chemical Information**

The EPA Agriculture Center has recently redesigned its Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) Web site. Materials on the web site have

been organized to make it easier to find information about CEPPO programs and information resources. The site contains a searchable database of chemicals found in individual communities, as well as ways to prevent chemical accidents. More: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/index.html>

### **Gasoline Deposit**

The gasoline deposit control program ensure U. S. gasoline supplies contain detergent-like additives to reduce tailpipe emissions, has been amended to improve compliance and maintain the environmental benefits of the program. The minor revisions include clarification of maximum concentration levels of fuel deposit control additives and changes to reporting requirements. As a result of this program, vehicle emissions of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides have been reduced by more than 595,000 tons annually. More: <http://epa.gov/otaq/additive.htm>

### **Arsenic and You**

On Jan. 23, 2006, public and private water agencies all over the United States had to meet tough new standards from the EPA that drastically reduced the levels of arsenic allowed in America's drinking water.

But those protections won't apply to the millions of suburban homeowners and residents of rural areas who

depend on their own well for drinking water.

What's a homeowner to do? How do you find out if there's arsenic in your well, or coming out of the tap in your home? And what steps can you take to get the arsenic contamination down to the level that the EPA have determine is safe?

The answers to these and many other questions about arsenic and ground water are covered in a guide just published by the American Ground Water Trust, a non

profit public service agency that provides education programs throughout the US on ground water and its role in meeting America's need for safe drinking water.

Copies to purchase are available through the Trust's website:

<https://site299.mysite4now.com/agwt/secure/store.htm>

#### **Arsenic Guide**

Public and private water agencies are changing to meet new standards for arsenic levels

in water, but protections will not apply to individual home wells. The American Ground Water trust offers solutions in a 24-page guide, *Arsenic and Ground Water: Questions, Answers, and Solutions*. The literature explains the geologic origins of arsenic, its occurrence in groundwater, arsenic-related health issues, and methods to remove or reduce arsenic levels. For a copy and more: [www.agwt.org](http://www.agwt.org)